



North Dakota

FARM REPORTER

Issue: 22-10

November 26, 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

Cattle on Feed

Farm Labor

Amber Waves

Dairy Products Prices

Milk Production

Turkey Hatchery

Cold Storage

Upcoming NASS Surveys

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.46 million, 3 percent above 2009. Net placements were 2.41 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 510,000, 600-699 pounds were 455,000, 700-799 pounds were 602,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 895,000.

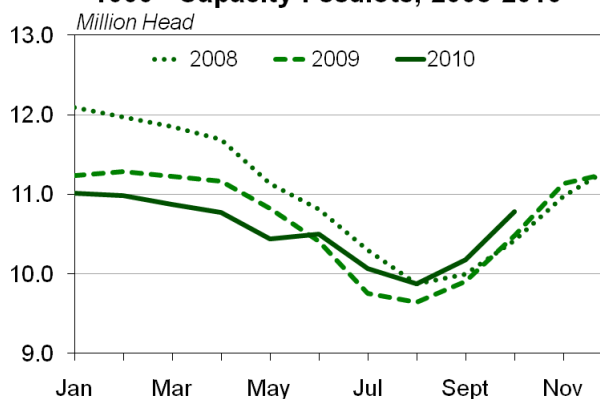


Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.80 million, 2 percent above 2009. Other disappearance totaled 54,000 during September, 15 percent above 2009.

CATTLE ON FEED

United States
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on October 1, 2010. The inventory was 3 percent above October 1, 2009. The inventory included 6.60 million steers and steer calves, up 3 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.12 million head, also up 3 percent from 2009.

**United States Cattle on Feed
1000+ Capacity Feedlots, 2008-2010**

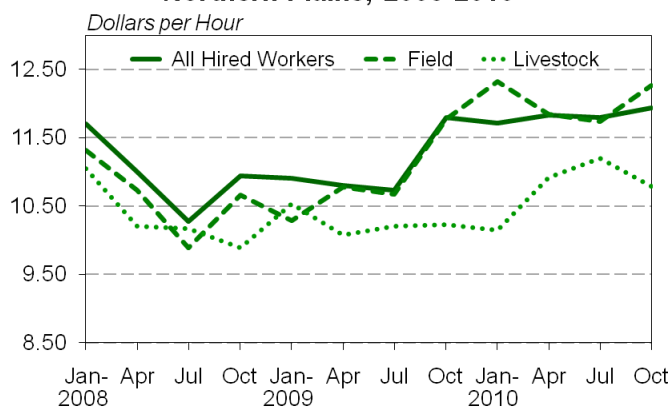


FARM LABOR

United States
Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.13 per hour during the October 2010 reference week, up 20 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.49 per hour, up 27 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.27 per hour compared with \$10.28 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.43 per hour, was up 19 cents from last year.

Northern Plains
Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.93 per hour during the October 2010 reference week, up 13 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$12.26 per hour, up 49 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.79 per hour compared with \$10.23 a year earlier.

**Wage Rates for Hired Workers
Northern Plains, 2008-2010**



~ Not Copyright Protected - Compiled and Published by ~

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office ■ P.O. Box 3166 ■ Fargo, ND 58108-3166
701-239-5306 ■ E-mail: nass-nd@nass.usda.gov ■ Internet: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/>

The Two Faces of Rural Population Loss Through Outmigration

Population loss is endemic to many rural areas. Nearly half of the Nation's 2,050 nonmetropolitan counties lost population through net outmigration between 1988 and 2008; for over 700 counties, this loss exceeded 10 percent. In counties with a long history of high outmigration, the loss is often exacerbated by "natural decrease," an excess of deaths over births due to an aged population. Rural depopulation is a continuing concern in the rural policy community, and repopulating rural communities is one of the goals of USDA's Strategic Plan for 2010-2015.

What makes non-metro high net outmigration counties different from other non-metro counties? Research results suggest that no single set of characteristics differentiates high outmigration counties. Some outmigration counties have populations with low education, high unemployment, and high poverty; most, however, have relatively well-educated populations and below-average unemployment rates. Their high outmigration appears related to geographic isolation and a lack of natural amenities.

Poverty Does Not Drive Outmigration in Most Counties

ERS researchers began with an examination of the relationship between poverty and high net outmigration. High net outmigration might be expected in areas with above-average poverty rates, since poverty suggests a lack of economic opportunity. The working-age population in particular is likely to react to economic opportunity in deciding where to live. In 1988-2008, however, this relationship held only in counties with poverty rates above 25 percent. While 60 percent of these "high-poverty" counties had high net outmigration, poverty rates below 25 percent had no apparent relevance, indicating that different factors underlie high net outmigration in most non-metro areas. The analysis that follows distinguishes the 733 non-metro high net outmigration counties (hereafter labeled "outmigration counties") according to whether their poverty rates were 25 percent or more (167 high-poverty counties) or lower (626 low-poverty counties).

About half of the low-poverty outmigration counties were located in the Great Plains, where they comprise nearly 80 percent of non-metro counties. The area of low-poverty outmigration extends east of the Great Plains into the agricultural counties of Iowa, Illinois, and southwestern Minnesota. High-poverty outmigration counties often had large minority populations—Native Americans in the Northern Plains, Hispanics in southern Texas, and Blacks in the Mississippi Delta and across the Cotton Belt. Some Appalachian Highland counties in Kentucky and West Virginia also had high poverty combined with high outmigration.

All Rural Areas Lose Young Adults, But Most Gain Families and Retirees

One way to gain insight into factors underlying high net outmigration is to divide the population into age cohorts—groups born in particular time spans—and examine the net migration of each cohort. For instance, a positive 1995-2000 net migration of children age 0-4 in 1995 (and 5-9 in 2000) indicates that young families are being attracted to an area.

By examining the migration patterns of each age cohort in 1995-2000, one can better understand how a typical non-metro county is affected by net migration over its population's life cycle.

Rural communities see many of their young adults leave after high school, often to further their education or join the Armed Forces. To maintain their population size, these communities need to attract other age cohorts, such as young families with children, midlife career changers, or retirees. In 1995-2000, most non-metro counties tended to gain through the net in-migration of children through age 14 (as young families with children moved in) but then lose young adults through age 24 (as young adults left for college and other pursuits). As adults finish school or begin settling down at around age 30, in-migration in the typical non-metro county (other than high outmigration counties) increases and continues doing so through retirement age, before declining after age 74.

The migration pattern in low-poverty outmigration counties reveals a starkly different picture. Typically, there was no net in-migration of children and much larger outmigration of young adults. Consistent with the pattern for children, the middle-aged population shows little change due to net migration. Families are generally not leaving, suggesting that economic opportunities are adequate for existing residents. Retirement-age population also shows little net change. Since people at this age are less dependent on the local economy than younger people are, this lack of in-migration suggests that the low-poverty outmigration counties are less attractive than other non-metro counties as places to live.

The high-poverty outmigration counties present a still different picture. They tended to lose not only young adults, but families with children as well, consistent with the limited economic opportunities represented by high poverty rates. As with the low-poverty outmigration counties, these counties also showed no gain in the retirement age population, suggesting that these counties, too, lack the amenities found in other non-metro counties. In this case, the high-poverty environment itself may discourage retirees from migrating to the area.

Return migration is a major component of in-migration to rural communities, especially among migrants in their late 20s and 30s. They are often returning home to raise families. The proportion of out-migrants who return at this life stage is lower in outmigration counties than in other non-metro counties, but the returnees represent 85 percent of the in-migrant pool in high-outmigration counties, compared with 66 percent in other non-metro counties. This confirms the wisdom of several States' focus on return migrants to repopulate rural areas undergoing substantial population loss. These counties are unlikely to attract migrants who lack pre-existing social ties to the area.

Source: *Amber Waves*, USDA-ERS, December 2010

DAIRY PRODUCTS PRICES

United States

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grade AA standards averaged \$2.06 per pound for the week ending November 13, 2010. The United States (US) price per pound decreased 7.4 cents from the previous week.

Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound blocks averaged \$1.67 per pound for the week ending November 13, 2010. The price per pound decreased 5.7 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.64 per pound, down 8.4 cents from the previous week.

Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote, and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 37.1 cents per pound for the week ending November 13, 2010. The US price per pound decreased 0.1 cents from the previous week.



Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote, and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Grade A standards averaged \$1.19 per pound for the week ending November 13, 2010. The US price per pound increased 0.3 cents from the previous week.

MILK PRODUCTION

United States

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 3.3 percent from October 2009. September revised production at 14.5 billion pounds, was up 3.7 percent from September 2009. The September revision represented an increase of 6 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,767 pounds for October, 47 pounds above October 2009.



The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.37 million head, 52,000 head more than October 2009, but unchanged from September 2010.

TURKEY HATCHERY

United States

Turkey eggs in incubators on November 1, 2010, in the United States totaled 28.3 million, up 9 percent from November 1, 2009. Eggs in incubators were up 8 percent from the October 1, 2010 total of 26.2 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 19 percent, West North Central up 8 percent, North and South Atlantic up 12 percent, and South Central and West down 8 percent.

Turkey poults hatched during October 2010, in the United States totaled 22.1 million, up slightly from October 2009.

Poults hatched were down slightly from the September 2010 total of 22.1 million poults. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 7 percent, West North Central down 2 percent, North and South Atlantic down 2 percent, and South Central and West up 3 percent.

The 21.2 million net poults placed during October 2010 in the United States were down slightly from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Net placements were down 2 percent from the September 2010 total of 21.7 million.

COLD STORAGE

United States

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on September 30, 2010 were greater than year earlier levels for eggs, chicken and cheese. Butter stocks were down 26 percent from last month and down 43 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 5 percent from the previous month but down 14 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 10 percent from the previous month but down 20 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 34 percent from last month and down 88 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on September 30, 2010 were down 2 percent from the previous month and down 5 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 1 percent from the previous month and up 12 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 6 percent from last month and down 23 percent from September 30, 2009.



UPCOMING NASS SURVEYS

End of the year USDA Agricultural Survey data collection starts November 29 and runs through January 29. The specific survey titles are the **County Agricultural Production, December Crops/Stocks Survey, December Hog Survey, January Livestock Surveys and County Rents and Values Survey.** These surveys are used in estimating the planted and harvested acreage, yield and production for principle crops, the amount of stored grain, livestock inventories, rental rates, land values and more. Without the data from these surveys, policymakers, farm organizations and others who make critical decisions that affect farmers/ranchers would make those decisions based on opinion rather than fact...and that's dangerous.

The following is a schedule of upcoming NASS reports for December and January. Most of these reports will be published in upcoming Farm Reporters. For more immediate information, call our office at 701-239-5306 or 1-800-626-3134 after the release time or go online to: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/>.

These are the following release dates:

	<u>Dec</u>	<u>CST</u>
Crop Production.....	10	7:30 am
Potato Stocks.....	15	2:00 pm
Hogs & Pigs.....	27	2:00 pm
Agricultural Prices.....	30	2:00 pm

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>CST</u>
Annual Crop Production.....	12	7:30 am
Grain Stocks.....	12	7:30 am
Winter Wheat Seedings.....	12	7:30 am
Potato Stocks.....	14	2:00 pm
Milk Production.....	19	2:00 pm
Cattle.....	28	2:00 pm
Sheep & Goats.....	28	2:00 pm
Agricultural Prices.....	31	2:00 pm